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"THE PEOPLE" OFFICE.
Saturday Evening.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.)
TWO NEW THEATRES.
NEW YORK, January 3.—A fire broke out at midnight at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, where Miss Fanny Davenport is playing Cleopatra. Fortunately the audience and actors had left the building. Herrmann's Theatre, in the same block, which is situated in Broadway between Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth streets, is also burning, and the flames are spreading.
January 3, 3 a.m.—The Fifth Avenue and Herrmann's Theatres are a total loss. The fire now confined to the two upper storeys of the latter House, where the loss is believed to be 15,000,000. Mr. Milner, lessee of the Fifth Avenue Theatre, estimates his loss at 25,000,000. The proprietor of Herrmann's Theatre loses 20,000,000. A new opera house is to be built on the site of the latter theatre, and was situated at a cost of 60,000,000. Miss Davenport places her personal loss at 50,000,000. Both theatres are owned by the Gilsey estate, and also the opera on Broadway between Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth streets, which were damaged by smoke and water. The aggregate loss of the estate is calculated at 250,000,000. The theatre is now under control. There has been no loss of life.
A FIRE AT THE THEATRE.
BERLIN, January 3.—During a children's performance in the theatre at Wiesbaden yesterday, the costume of one of the dancers caught fire, and the flames soon spread to the scenery, causing a panic among the audience. The flames were, however, soon extinguished, and no serious damage was done. The performance proceeded without further incident, and the dancer who was severely burnt, is now recovering.
AN AMERICAN HOTEL BURNED.
NEW YORK, January 3.—The Avenue Hotel, Corsicana, Texas, has been destroyed by fire, four persons being burned to death.
THE CZA EWICH IN INDIA.
MOMBAY, January 3.—The Czaritch left yesterday for Jodhpore.
THE GREEK CHAMBER.
ATHENS, January 2.—An acrimonious debate took place in the Chamber yesterday, in consequence of which M. Ralli severely criticised the policy of the Government on several points, and notably their Budget proposals. He approved a modification of the Electoral law; but, in regard to the Reform Bill now before the House, he objected to the Government's mode of procedure, which he described as unconstitutional, because the measure was not being voted article by article. The Premier retorted warmly, and general recriminations ensued, the sitting being finally adjourned amid great excitement.
AN ECCLESIASTICAL OFFICIAL DISPLACED.
PARIS, January 2.—The French Government have charged Count Lefevre de Beaulieu, French ambassador at the Vatican, to replace the Abbe Fajol, Superior of St. Louis des Franciscains, in the administration of the affairs of the Church. The ground of the action taken by the Government against this official is that he had been guilty of a serious offence in connection with the suspension of the stipends of some priests in the diocese of Bayonne, concerning the name of the Holy See, and used language towards the Minister of Public Worship which could not be tolerated by the French Government.
THE GERMANS IN AFRICA.
BERLIN, January 2.—The Reichsanzeiger this afternoon publishes a telegram from Major von Wissman, announcing that the imperial standard was hoisted on the German East African coast yesterday.
COLLIERY EXPLOSION.
BOCHUM, January 2, Noon.—An explosion of fire-damp has occurred in the Heinrich Gustav coal pit near here. The number of deaths has not yet been ascertained, but so far, two dead bodies and nine injured men have been recovered.
THE AMERICAN INDIANS.
NEW YORK, January 1.—A despatch from Pine Ridge states that the 2nd Infantry Regiment has been ordered to land itself in readiness to move. It is rumoured that General Brooke, the commandant at Pine Ridge, has been relieved of his post and ordered back to Washington, and that General Miles will take personal command of the troops at the front and conduct future operations.
NEW YORK, January 2.—A later telegram from Pine Ridge announces that General Brooke has not been ordered home, but that the field with the 2nd Infantry Regiment. Thirty soldiers who were killed in the fight were buried near Pine Ridge yesterday, in a blinding snow storm. The military salute was omitted, as it was thought that the firing might excite the hostile Indians.
(DALLIES' TELEGRAMS.)
HURON (SOUTH DAKOTA), January 1.—Hump and Iron Thunder, two noted Sioux chiefs, came here yesterday in charge of Captain Rivers, of the 5th Infantry Regiment. They are going to Rapid City to meet General Miles. Neither of them had been told of the fight with the Sioux band until they arrived. Both of them seemed delighted over the result of the fight. Hump said, "Two tribes were very bad. All the band were Indians. Big Foot ought to have died long ago. I never loved him. He made great trouble, and I hope it is true he is dead."
RUMSVELT, January 3.—It is now known

for certain that a band of hostiles to the number of 1,100 occupies a fortified camp near the mouth of the Whiteley Creek. General Brooke and the troops under him are proceeding northward; General Carr is moving from the west, and General Miles is preparing to advance from the south. The forces engaged in these operations are believed to be sufficient to annihilate the entire band of redskins.
DECISION AGAINST THE DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH.
WASHINGTON, January 1.—The Supreme Court has decided that \$10,000 a year must be deducted from the income of the Duchess of Marlborough and applied in payment of the judgments, which amount to \$140,000. Mr. John Jaffray, the holder of these judgments, commenced suit to ascertain how much the duchess required for maintenance. She replied, stating that her net income was \$27,000 a year, and that she required it all. The referee reported that these figures were correct, but held that a reasonable allowance was left after paying \$10,000 to Mr. Jaffray. The court confirmed the referee's report.
A STATE PRISON BURNED.
EXETER, N.H., January 2.—Shortly after midnight yesterday morning, a fire broke out which destroyed the principal buildings of the state prison at Clinton. The fire originated in the hospital kitchen in the centre of the chief building, and spread to the hospital, the boiler-house, the state work-shops, the machine shops, the laundry, and the new portion of the prison containing 500 cells. At the time of the fire there were 400 prisoners in the prison. In the hospital on the third floor there were twenty patients, who, being imprisoned in the ward, narrowly escaped being burned. Ladders were brought to enable the rescuers to reach the roof of the boiler-house adjoining the hospital. From that point they reached the windows where the patients were in prison, and wrenched away the heavy iron bars, saving the patients, and took out the sick prisoners one by one, lowering them first to the roof of the boiler-house, and thence to the ground. Meanwhile, the scene in the prison proper was a most exciting character. The prisoners, who were all locked in their cells, shrieked for help, and begged to be let out; while the stifling smoke poured through the passages, filling the cells, and nearly suffocating the prisoners as well as the keepers, who were doing their best to release them. Finally, the cells were unlocked, and the prisoners marched into the main yard. Among them were many who had been volunteer firemen, and these gave great assistance in fighting the flames. The prisoners, with two exceptions, made no attempt to escape. The prison stores were burned, and loads of provisions had to be sent from the town during the day.
THE ROBBERY AT THE ARMY AND NAVY STORES.
The Rev. William Luther Leeman, M.A., F.R.G.S., formerly vicar of St. Thomas, Seaford, near Brighton, and afterwards rector of Winton-le-Wold, near Louth, Lincolnshire, was brought up on remand at the Westminster Police Court on Friday, charged with stealing books, pipes, &c., from the Army and Navy Stores, Victoria-street, Westminster.—At Christmas time, when the stores were very crowded, the prisoner was followed from the book department, where he had been seen to take several volumes in his pockets, to the tobacco department, where he stole several pipes. He passed on to the lavatory in the basement, still followed by the private detectives, who then saw him empty his pockets of the things he had appropriated into a large black leather bag he carried. He then made his way back upstairs to the book department, and put several more books in his pockets. Not until he was leaving the building by the back entrance was he given into custody and charged with felony. He made no reply to the charge. At his lodgings at Willesden four books, thirteen almanacs, and fifty-two Christmas cards, bearing the Stores' mark, were found.—Mr. Forrest, Fulton, prosecuting for the directors of the Army and Navy Stores, asked that the evidence should be committed to trial, the evidence being complete.—Mr. Dutton said he was going to ask for the adoption of another course; but perhaps the least said is the soonest.—Mr. De Ruten: I don't propose to say anything.—Mr. Dutton: The defendant has been in custody since December 18th, and would like to get bail. His friends are anxious to secure his position.—Mr. Dutton: I will accept substantial bail—two sureties in £100 each.—Dutton asked that it should be arranged that the case should stand over until the February session, but Mr. Fulton objecting, the prisoner was committed for the session commencing on Monday next.
DISASTERS AT SEA.
SUFFERED LOSS OF FORTY LIVES.
Advices received at Queenstown from Baltimore state that the Johnston Line steamer Thetamore, which left that port on November 26th, bound for London, is believed to have foundered in the Atlantic with all hands. Those on board numbered close upon 100 persons, including a number of cattle.—A serious collision occurred on Friday in the English Channel between two large steamers, the Norway, 783 tons, belonging to the West Hartlepool Steam Navigation Company, and the Cirassia, 1,400 tons, belonging to Messrs. Gray and Co. Considerable damage was done, but no lives were lost.
SHOCKING FATALITY.
A young man, named Ruttschold, while working in a flour mill lately erected at Ashford, Kent, on Tuesday became entangled in the machinery and was whirled rapidly round, sustaining such injuries that he died almost immediately.
Orders were received at Sheerness on Thursday directing that the new steel trussers Mohawk is to sail on the 5th inst. for the West Coast of Africa Station in place of her sister ship, the Serpent, which foundered on her passage to the station. The Mohawk's ventilation has been improved, and the weight on the fore-castle has been reduced.

THE FAVERSHAM POISONING CASE.
SINGULAR DISCOVERIES.
At a special sitting at the Faversham Borough Police Court, Charles Lyddon, a medical student, was charged on remand with the wilful murder of his step-brother, Dr. William Reeks Lyddon, by administering poison to him on November 24th last. Mr. Worfield Mowll, of Dover, prosecuted on behalf of the Treasury; and Mr. Wiggins, of Whitstable, defended.—In opening the case, Mr. Mowll said the history of the family prior to the crime was about as deplorable as one as had ever come under his notice. Important evidence would be the deed entered into between the deceased and the prisoner. There was nothing in it in the event of the practice being sold to prevent the deceased from setting up in practice in Faversham. This was a strong motive on the part of the prisoner. Subsequent to the deed, the bench would see that the poor dead man had been subjected to brutality which seemed to be perfectly shocking. On September 24th Dr. Boswell was called to see the deceased. He found him in a deplorable state, and had him removed to the Cottage Hospital. On October 30th he came back to West-street against Dr. Boswell's advice. On the 20th November there seemed to have been a family disturbance, and the deceased left for Heme Bay. After going there the deceased suffered from a serious attack, and the prisoner, notwithstanding the family quarrel, went at once to see him. The deceased returned on the 24th to Faversham, feeling very much better, and died in the following morning, after another family quarrel during the night. It would be proved that the deceased during the night prior to his death was hustled about in a disgraceful manner both by the prisoner and his mother. The doctor having died, Dr. Boswell refused to give a certificate, and the police were called in to investigate. Mr. Mowll said that although he had carefully avoided allusion to her in the case before, he feared it might be necessary to do so. With the prisoner's mother in one way or another.—Charles John Naylor, aged 18, he entered the service of the prisoner as page-boy on the 14th of August last. He always considered the prisoner his master, and he paid him his wages. Besides the prisoner's mother, and Dr. Lyddon, witness was the only occupant of the house. There were very frequent rows in the family, principally between the prisoner and his mother. So far as witness could judge, deceased used to drink about half a pint of whisky a day, besides beer. The prisoner, he should think, drank on an average more than
A PINT OF WHISKY A DAY.
Mrs. Lyddon, too, used to drink sometimes, and the family were all very much addicted to over-indulgence in drink. He had several times seen the doctor drunk to the point of being unable to attend to his patients. Usually witness slept either with the doctor or the prisoner, but he had a bedroom at the top of the house. There were constant disturbances in the house at night. He often heard the prisoner threaten deceased; once saying he would shoot him if he came over the door of the surgery. The prisoner was pointing a gun at the time, and did it to prevent the doctor from coming out of the surgery into the hall. On another occasion, when deceased was hanging at the prisoner's bedroom door, prisoner said, "I have got the gun inside, and if you set in I will fire." Charles Lyddon, the prisoner, had spoken to him about a month ago of the proposed deed of assignment, and he had explained to him that his meaning was that everything belonged to him. Witness had seen deceased take doses of drugs in the surgery, but had never seen him take morphia. He believed, however, that he had seen morphia in his bedroom, but only on one occasion, when witness took it up to him to be dispensed. Witness had several times heard quarrels between deceased and the prisoner, and he had heard the prisoner say that the doctor had turned two patients out of his surgery, and that he must go out of the house or the practice would be ruined. He heard Mrs. Lyddon say she would crack the deceased's head open, and she brandished a bonnet stand, the prisoner, Charles, however, intercepting the blow before the death of the prisoner, the prisoner sleeping on the outside of the bed with his trousers on. When witness awoke a bunch of keys was lying in the bed, one of them being the key of the little room in which the doctor was locked. When witness got up Mrs. Lyddon was sitting on the floor in the kitchen, and told him to get up and go upstairs and make a bed for the doctor, and after making the bed went to his own room into a little room where the doctor was and attempted to move him. The doctor did not reply when witness spoke to him, and it took him about a quarter of an hour to drag and push the doctor into the other room prepared for him. He was quite helpless, and could not walk at all. The prisoner and his mother both stood by all the time without offering any assistance. When the prisoner saw witness could not get deceased into bed, he told him he had better leave him on the floor where he was, and he accordingly did so.—In cross-examination witness admitted that on the occasion when he took the bottle of morphia up to the deceased's room he left it made up in a box, and brought away the other. When he was asked he could not say how much there was in it, but it was not full. The bottle could not be found three or four days after, when it was wanted; but it was eventually found in a cupboard. The morphia bottle was a quart one, and when found it contained only about three-quarters of an ounce of the bottom. He had never seen the doctor take drugs when in the surgery with him. He drugs would call him an habitual drunkard, but he frequently bought deceased half a pint of whisky or more a day. From his personal notice of the relations of the family with each other in the house, he did not think the prisoner Charles had any animosity towards his step-brother. On the occasion when the prisoner threatened to shoot the deceased if he came into his bedroom, the doctor was threatening to black his eyes. It was the night before the doctor's death that the prisoner and Mrs.

Lyddon threatened to horsewhip him. Witness adhered to his statement that he must have seen the bottle had there been one in the room. Deceased was very drunk the night before his death, and the prisoner was also drunk when he came to bed.
POLICE EVIDENCE.
Inspector Fowle said there had been a good deal of disturbance in the Lyddon house since June last, and he had very frequently been called in. He knew, too, of the deed of assignment between the brothers. When he had visited the house prisoner told him that his brother took drugs, and that if anything occurred he (prisoner) might be accused of something. On the night before the death of the deceased witness was called to the house, and the prisoner asked witness to turn his brother out, as he was master of the house. Witness refused, and Mrs. Lyddon coming up, said she was ashamed of Mr. Charles, as the doctor was very ill. Next morning witness was again called and found the doctor dead in the little room upstairs. Mrs. Charles gave him the key of the room from a bunch in his pocket.—P.S. Sergeant said that, on the instruction of Dr. Boswell, he visited the house of the Lyddons. He went into Mrs. Lyddon's bedroom, followed by the prisoner and Mrs. Lyddon. The deceased was lying on the floor. His face was of a bluish tinge with rather a deeper discoloration across the cheeks. He was dressed in socks and shoes, and had also a collar and necktie on. The prisoner told him that the deceased had slept in the little room because he was ill. On searching the little room witness found the bottle produced, which was tightly corked up. The bottle was within reach of any one lying on the floor of the room. Witness asked the prisoner whether he could account for the bottle being there. He asked to look at it, and then said, "This settles the matter; it's morphia. I am glad you have found the bottle, or people might have said I poisoned him." Witness continued his search, but found nothing else likely to account for his death.—The accused was remanded until Thursday next.
TERRIBLE AFFAIR AT LEEDS.
FOURTEEN CHILDREN ON FIRE.
FIVE DEATHS.
A terrible calamity occurred at Leeds on Thursday night. The performance of a piece entitled "Snow Flakes" was about to be given in one of the vestries by young children attending the school. For this representation all the children were dressed from head to foot in white wool, and each one of them was to carry a lighted Chinese lantern. The children had just completed dressing in a small room and were preparing to go on to the platform, when by some means or other one of the lanterns caught fire. Immediately the inflammable material in which the girl who was holding the lamp was clad became ignited, and before witness was any opportunity of extinguishing the flames they had extended to the child standing next to her. Some of their companions endeavoured to put out the fire and to rescue the girl, but they, too, in turn were caught in the flames, while others in a state of wild alarm, evidently under the impression that the building was on fire, rushed towards the doorway leading to the platform. Very few seconds elapsed before the dresses of the whole of the children were on fire, and the audience itself, which included the parents of the children, was in the wildest state of excitement. Some of them at once tried to rescue the young sufferers by tearing the woollen material from them, and throwing around them pieces of cloth and clothing. Altogether fourteen children were severely burned, and five have since died.
SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A STUDENT.
At the London County Sessions, William Adolphus Walburg, 18, surrendered to bail in answer to an indictment charging him with stealing a bag containing a box of mathematical instruments, value £3 10s., the goods of Mr. Albert Jarvis.—The prosecutor, who resides at East Dulwich, was a Polytechnic student of the prisoner at the Polytechnic Institution, in Regent-street, and on the 14th of November he left the bag in question locked up in his cupboard. On the following Monday, on going to his locker, he found the door was open, and his box and instruments gone.—An assistant to Mr. Thompson, a pawnbroker, of 30, Chalk Farm-road, proved that the box and instruments were pawned by the prisoner on the evening of the 14th of November for £2.—The prisoner was arrested by P.S. Morgan on the 15th of December, and he was taken to the shop of the pawnbroker, where he said, in answer to the charge, "About six o'clock on the evening of the 14th November I saw a man on the steps of the Polytechnic, and he handed me a bag containing the box and the articles, and asked me whether I could sell it. I said, 'Yes, and I came to this shop and sold the box.' Asked what had become of the bag and other articles, the prisoner replied, "I handed them back to the other man." In answer to other questions the prisoner said he did not know the address of the man in question.—Mr. Hutton called several witnesses, who gave the prisoner an excellent character, and urged on his behalf that it was extremely improbable that unless his client thought he was doing other than engaging in a legitimate transaction he would have taken the articles to an establishment where he was known.—The jury, after retiring to consider their verdict, found the prisoner not guilty.
PROSECUTION UNDER THE BETTING HOUSE ACT.
HEAVY PENALTIES.
At the Bow-street Police Court on Friday, Gordon Murray, whose name will be remembered in connection with the great detective case and the discount frauds, was fined £200 10s., and Frederick Wilson was mulcted in a similar amount, under the Betting House Act, for keeping a betting house and issuing circulars relating to betting from 40, Chancery-lane.—A man named Palmer was fined 21s. under the same Act.

ALLEGED FRAUDS ON THE ARISTOCRACY.
William Henry Crisp, aged 32, described as a farmer, of 272, Richmond-road, Hackney, was brought up at Marlborough-street, on Friday, by Detective-sergeant Martin, charged with attempting to procure charitable contributions from the Countess of Meath by a false pretence on or about 31st October.—Mr. Frake Palmer said he appeared to prosecute by the instructions of the Earl of Meath. The charge was for attempting to obtain a donation from the Countess of Meath by means of a begging letter. In October and in November last he wrote to the Countess of Meath pretending that it was his wife that was writing for her husband, who was very ill, whereas he (Mr. Palmer) should prove that the prisoner himself was the writer, and that he was quite well at the time. Of course, it was well known that the Earl of Meath was a very liberal distributor of charity among the deserving poor, and he would not doubt the prisoner had attempted to take advantage of that. He was instructed that hundreds of letters had been found by the police at the prisoner's house from ladies and gentlemen in high positions; also that the prisoner had already undergone a term of imprisonment.—The Rev. William Robinson, private secretary to the Earl of Meath, of 88, Lancaster Gate, said that on the 31st of October last he received a letter, which was addressed to the Countess of Meath, asking for assistance, and enclosing a letter purporting to have been written by the Marchioness of Queensberry. He communicated with the Charity Organisation Society, and afterwards gave information to the police.—Mrs. H. A. Lynderman, of 272, Richmond-road, Hackney, said prisoner had lodged in her house since October of 1889. Letters came there in large quantities addressed to Mrs. Crisp, William Crisp, and Carter Crisp. The prisoner occupied two rooms. She identified the prisoner's handwriting, and stated that he was quite well on October 31st and November 1st. She had never known him to do any work, and had thought it strange that so much of his correspondence should be addressed to Mrs. Crisp. Her husband spoke to him about it, and the explanation he gave was that he was a commercial agent, and took that course to avoid the imposture.—The Earl of Meath, who had been instructed by the police to call on the prisoner, who entered the witness-box carrying a huge bundle of letters, said he met the prisoner in the Richmond-road, and asked him his name. When told he would be arrested, he asked, "What for?" Prisoner made no further reply to the charge. At No. 272, Richmond-road he found the prisoner occupied a small front room on the top floor and, in that room he discovered the letters produced, also hundreds of cards.—Here the prisoner said, "I admit the charge, the writing of the letters to Earl Meath. What was a fellow to do when hungry?" I plead guilty, and I ask your merciful consideration.—Mr. Cooke: Oh, dear no.—Mr. Palmer: I shall have to ask for remand. Mr. Justice Sterling, Sir Horace Davey, and Lord Herschell have promised to come forward as witnesses if necessary. This man, I am told, has imposed upon very many people.—A remand was granted.
MATRIMONIAL TROUBLES OF A MUSIC HALL SINGER.
Kate West, a music hall artist, was summoned at the Lambeth Police Court on Friday, to answer to a charge made by Mr. Birn, Q.C., against her husband, Arthur West, a music hall singer and author, should not be reduced in amount.—The case has been before the court on previous occasions, and upon the first hearing, with regard to the maintenance of Mrs. West, who had separated from her husband, an order was made against him for the payment of £2 per week. Against the order and for its reduction in amount Arthur West now appeared.—Mr. Armstrong said that an attempt to upset the order had been previously made, and then £3 9s. was due, which had not been paid.—Mr. Birn said that the circumstances of complaint were not what they had been, and he was to be met by the order made by the court. He also urged that the wife was one of a troupe of music hall artists, and earned some £3 per week. Mr. West a short time back had met with an accident on his way in a cab to carry out an engagement.—In support of the complainant, Frank Egerton, general manager of the Trocadero, and others, were called to show that it had been.—In the course of the evidence it was also urged that the complainant's expenses were heavy; that he had to pay 10 per cent. upon all engagements he obtained through his agent; that he had to pay for the use of a cab or bring him to convey him from one music hall to another; and that he had further to pay for dresses and travelling expenses. It was agreed that he was a clever song writer, and had latterly produced a song about Mr. Parnell, but on the complainant's part it was alleged that this had only brought him in some 4s.—The complainant was called, and gave evidence as to his inability to pay the amount ordered by the court.—Mr. Armstrong, after the cross-examination of the complainant and his witnesses, submitted that there was no evidence brought forward to show why the order should be altered.—Mr. Birn, in the end, said if he could have made a larger order he should have done so. He dismissed the witnesses, and further ordered the complainant to pay the wife for £28 arrears under the order.—Mr. Birn made an order for the payment of that amount, or in default of distress two months' hard labour.
DYNAMITE EXPLOSION IN IRELAND.
A Newtownards correspondent reports serious injuries to two workmen, named Stevenson and Nelson, through the explosion of a dynamite cartridge by being accidentally struck with a pickaxe by one of them while engaged in sinking a well. One of Stevenson's eyes was destroyed.
ILLNESS OF LORD EUSTON.
A Northampton telegram reports that the Earl of Euston, son of the Duke of Grafton, is seriously ill.

THE O'BRIEN-PARNELL CONFERENCE.
WILL MR. PARNELL RETIRE?
A communication is said to have been received in London from Mr. W. O'Brien to the effect that, as a result of the conference at Boulogne on Tuesday, there was every reason to hope that an amicable arrangement would be arrived at which would terminate the dispute between the two sections of the Irish Parliamentary party. The result of inquiries points to a confirmation of the rumour respecting the resignation of Mr. Parnell. It is thought that the conference will be resumed in a few days, though whether at Paris or Boulogne it is impossible at present to say. Another correspondent believes that a settlement, though not quite definite, has been arrived at between Mr. Parnell and Mr. O'Brien, and that Mr. Parnell, before consenting to withdraw temporarily for brief space, has until after the general election—has retained to consult Mr. G. Lewis as to certain matters financial, legal, and otherwise. Mr. Parnell, according to information from good sources, has no more idea of abandoning the fight now than he ever had, though he may for tactical reasons make an arrangement with Mr. O'Brien, who is the independent, the Irish Gladstonian, and a civil tongue in their hands. If not, the consequences will be disastrous.
RELEASE OF IRISH PRISONERS.
Thomas Kelly and James Hendry, who were convicted with eight others at the Belfast Assizes, in 1883, for their connection with the Irish Patriotic Brotherhood at Crossmaglen, have just been released from prison. They had as fellow-prisoners the Dublin Invincibles, Joseph Mullett, James Mullett, M. Caffery, Fitzharris (Skin-the-Goat), William Moroney, O'Brien, Laurence Henlon, and Dan Deane. Joseph Mullett, who is sentenced to penal servitude for life, is in charge of the book-binding business and the laundry. James Mullett takes a turn at almost everything. Fitzharris is engaged in the laundry. Laurence Henlon, who was both sentenced for life, are working at tailoring. O'Brien and Moroney are engaged in shoemaking. Dan Deane is a cooper. Three other Irishmen—James Mullett, Dan Deane, and Wm. Moroney—all of whom were sentenced to ten years' imprisonment, are in pretty good spirits at the idea that they will soon be free.
ALLEGED CONSPIRACY AND ARSON.
STANTON EVIDENCE.
At the Southwark Police Court on Friday, a man named Stanton, alias "Old Tom," who had adopted one or more assumed names, was brought up on remand, charged with being concerned with others in conspiring to defraud a large number of insurance companies. Some further evidence was given in continuation of previous statements, to the effect that the prisoners had been effecting insurances on furniture in various houses, and had set them on fire in order to obtain the money.—A witness named Whitehead, a former associate of the prisoners, said it was in October, 1889, that he first heard anything about the fire. Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Ingram, and George Cullmer told him how easy it was to make money out of the fire insurance companies, and how advantageous it would be for him to have a few fires. They told him the various sums of money they had made out of fires. They explained that all that was necessary was a gallon or so of paraffin, a few wicks, and some sheeting, &c., &c. To set the place on fire they fixed a tape saturated with paraffin to a bedstead in a short time the tape would catch light, and the place would be on fire. Before they left the house they told him they always broke alarm, and let the fragments remain on the floor, so as to throw the assessors of fire insurance companies off the "scout." The witness then described in detail how he took room, insured the furniture, and after the place had been set alight by George Cullmer, made a claim upon the Westminster Fire Insurance Company for £119, which was settled for £63. Witness gave £21 to Callmer for his trouble, and for "teaching" him. Witness and Callmer had three fires, and in each case the place was designedly set on fire for the purpose of recovering money from the fire insurance companies. George Cullmer always set the houses on fire. In several instances witness received a third of the money recovered for representing himself as the owner of the goods. The witness was then taken seriatim through the various fires which have occurred at the different addresses where the prisoners have resided, and in nearly every instance the witness stated that George Cullmer set the place on fire, after arranging the goods and saturating them with paraffin. On one occasion witness and George Cullmer took rooms at Fulham, and after insuring the furniture it was arranged that a fire should break out. Witness took the policy out and gave the name of Richardson. A lot of wearing apparel, the savings of another man, late at night Callmer bid him "Good night," and they were supposed to leave, but on this occasion, the witness added, "I did not leave the house, for I had reason to believe that there might be a loss of life. I heard that the landlady and her little son, who occupied rooms at the top of the house, had gone to bed. A few minutes later I heard the fire break out, and shortly afterwards a man came to the door and said, 'The house is on fire.' I told him to run for the engines, while I did what I could to put it out. I went upstairs and prevailed upon the landlady and her son to leave the house. The fire was put out. I made a claim for £25, and it was settled for £25. I had £12 out of it and Callmer had the balance."—The hearing was adjourned.
SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST AN EX-POLICEMAN.
At the Dublin Police Court on Friday, John Walsh, an ex-sergeant of the Dublin metropolitan police, was committed for trial, charged with using a revolver at a young man named O'Brien, an assistant at a public-house in Britain-street. The shot did not take effect. Walsh was discharged from the police force in 1889 on the ground of weak intellect, and he has been in a lunatic asylum since.

TALES OF A TERRACE.

By HEBER K. DANIELS.
AUTHOR OF "HE AND JIM."

PART VIII.—GUILTY!

There was a heroine in this world—a heroine, I mean, in the commonplace, matter of fact sense of the word, as befitting the times in which we move—that person was none other than Mary Heatherbee, of Ivy Cottage, in the terrace of Underholt. There were those who would dispute her claim to the title. There were those, we know, who, were they told that black was black and white was white, would immediately deny that they were anything of the sort, and go on to prove to demonstration that the former was a natural tint, and the latter no colour at all;—and they would in all probability be right. Sufficient, however, for the purposes of this story, that it was the collective sense of the terrace that Mary Heatherbee was a heroine, and that in itself was ample guarantee of the soundness of a premise that might otherwise appear to be unduly strained.

She was neither tall, willowy, divinely fair, nor the possessor of a stich warbling contralto voice; deficiencies that would alone have placed her beyond the circle of your heroine's horizons. The lackadaisical and the latter no colour at all;—and they would in all probability be right. Sufficient, however, for the purposes of this story, that it was the collective sense of the terrace that Mary Heatherbee was a heroine, and that in itself was ample guarantee of the soundness of a premise that might otherwise appear to be unduly strained.

Her figure was no better and no worse than that of the majority of her sex, who, as the proverbial saying is, "underpinned men, are bound to the washboard or the kitchen dresser for the remainder of their natural lives. And her face, when in repose, I am sure would never have gained her a living as a painter's model. I could have pointed you out a dozen in the terrace far prettier and decidedly more classical in contour any bright Sunday afternoon in the year.

I rather fancy that her undeniable charm of manner derived its source, not so much from cosmetics as tender eyes and a smile that, in its conjunction with a temper of such perennial sweetness, that it has been immortalized by Judson, our poet, as:

An antidote to spleen and bile,
The ripple of an angel's smile.

Whether, as a matter of fact, the smile of an angel, or the properties attributed to it by the poet, its mundane position does not permit me to say; but this I do know, that if ever they smile after the manner of Mary Heatherbee, heaven will not be so white the worse for it.

When Station Superintendent John Heatherbee reported to the shop, Mr. Pressingford and Sons, tailors, of Tweed-lane, E.C., and saw her for the first time in attendance as outdoor "finisher" for the firm, he took such a fancy to her sweet, pale face and her bright, cheery ways, that he never gave her a day's peace from week-end to week-end until he had married her and carried her off to the home which he had hurriedly furnished for her in Underholt-terrace. Once comfortably installed therein, she not only repaid to the hearts of her immediate neighbours, but into that of the terrace far and wide, a space of rather less than a month. Nothing short of hypnotism would appear to account for the wonderful way in which her sweet personality exercised over the minds of every one—good, bad, or indifferent—who came within sight of that beaming little face. She fairly made the community—there is no other expression for it. Men with sorrow or worry on their minds, meeting her suddenly in the street, would seem to gather fresh courage from her blithe smile, and, once themselves up and there and then, that might come. And women whose fortune it was to receive a nod of cheery recognition from that sunny little head, went their way in wonder that they should ever have complained of life in it. It was marvellous! Why, I believe, the very cart horses rearing up the slippery steps of the terrace with their heavy loads, took heart from her sympathetic "Pretty dear!" as she stood watching them with tearful eyes, and went on their way all the better for it. Without a word, the best bit of gossip, she seemed instinctively to know when the weight of trouble lay heavy upon others, and a hearty "Cheer up, my girl!" accompanied by Mary Heatherbee's inimitable smile, with its dimples and gleaming teeth, was like a new lease of life to the discouraged and broken hearted, and to a common sight to see the young and old of the terrace affectionately watching her as she came up the terrace, and hear them remark, "There's that dear going up the road again. Oh, how I should like to hug her!" And with some of the idiosyncrasies of the fair sex in her mind's eye it will be conceded that the sentimentality spoke volumes for the universality of her heroine.

Although Mr. Heatherbee had married in haste, he showed no disposition during his leisure moments to repent of the least over what he had done. He was so proud of his buxom little spouse as a dog would be of his tail, and small praise to him for it. Who would not have been, in the same circumstances. And the baby took so wonderfully after its mother, that it was never known to cry except once, and then it could hardly have been said to have had control over its own actions.

Those were happy times, indeed; and I would fain dwell lovingly on the many little incidents of her daily life, that served more and more to preserve her memory to us in the years that are past, and that are to come. But the exigencies of autobiography demand that it shall be otherwise, and I reluctantly pass on to events that took place a year after the child was born, and that overhauled us at the time with the profoundest grief.

It was Mr. William Rudge, carpenter and joiner, of No. 13, who, on that fatal morning, came into the terrace with the news of the accident at the station, wherein Mr. Heatherbee had been run over in the shunting operations and killed. He had been with him a few minutes before the occurrence, and had hurried back with all speed in order that the news might not be broken to the bereaved wife by unsympathetic lips.

It was a fearful task to undertake, and one that would have unnerved a stronger man than Mr. Rudge, who, still broke down within a few days

of her house, and had to fall back on his wife for assistance. And it was Dolle Rudge upon whom the duty fell of imparting the dread tidings to Mary Heatherbee, the husband, whose parting kiss was still warm upon her lips, was fated nevermore to enter the terrace alive.

In the depth of our sympathy for the grief-stricken little woman, we felt as though the calamity had been a personal one; and, man, woman, and child, we felt into the wake of the bereaved, as it set out with its burden of poor shattered humanity in the direction of the local cemetery.

With the death of her husband her means of livelihood came suddenly to an end, and half due to the effects of the terrible blow, the widow became alive to the miserable position in which her loss had placed herself and the child. Relations she had none, and her modest pride would not permit of an appeal to the charity of her numerous friends in the terrace. Sooner than do this, she would have taken the child in her arms and sung in the streets for their bread.

Her first thoughts were of Pressingford and Sons, Tweed-lane, and the probability of their again employing her in her old capacity of "finisher" for the firm, and her first action was to call upon them and lay her case before them in all its pitifulness.

Mr. Pressingford was sympathetic to a degree, and consoled with her over her misfortune in a way that bordered on the parental. But trade was bad, he said, and he was full up with hands, and likely to remain so for some time to come. Mr. Pressingford, in this pessimistic way to her affairs before engaging a hand; it being calculated to impress his petitioners with a due sense of their obligation to him for favours that seemed to be the sole outcome of an overflowing heart.

Therefore, as she was turning away dejectedly to leave the office, he told her with his usual assumption of benevolent gruffness that she might go in and see the "passer," and ask him, with Mr. Pressingford's compliments, what he could do for her. "And, I believe," he called out to her as she got to the inner door, "mind you don't go and leave that work-book of yours knocking about for others to look at. We haven't too many friends around us that we can afford to have one of those confounded newspaper articles written about it for the benefit of a commission. That'll do—good morning!"

And, with her old book under her pocket, and a bundle of work under her arm, the little woman went away home with a lighter heart than she had ever borne since the day of the funeral. Her next step was to sell that furniture—considered to be over and above the requirements of Ivy Cottage, and let the rooms to an elderly lady, who said she was "retired independent," and who certainly acted up to that condition by never on the least pretence going out except to procure the ordinary necessities of life.

And then the long wearying struggle for existence began in right earnest. For the first three months she contrived, by dint of sheer work, and with the aid of the old lady's rent, to meet, not only the demands of her landlord, but those of her own necessities. It was certainly a wonderful performance, though God only knows what the effort must have cost her in body and mind. We, who had occasion to pass her windows at all hours of the night, and saw that patient figure ever bending over its work, and noted the falling away of the hair in the dimpled cheeks and rounded figure, might form some conception of it, though nothing more. And throughout it all there was the same bright independence of manner and cheery smile—chastened, it is true, by sorrow and perpetual care, but none the less intensely pathetic for that very reason.

When trade began to fall off with the Pressingfords in sober earnest, and the ever-increasing influx of alien hands had induced that benevolent firm to reduce their scale of payments to a figure that barely paid for her fares and shoe leather, it was gently suggested to her by a well-meaning Underholtian, that the desolation might be met by selling up her home and moving into quarters within easier reach of the shop in Tweed-lane.

The proposal, however, met with no better result than a quiet look of hurt surprise. What! sell her home and move away from under the very roof that she had loved so dearly, and remain the loving little creature that she was, and never so much as once locked the front door at night? Why, the thought of such a thing was madness! No, no. She must work on—there was nothing else to be done—and trust in the future for whatever it might bring her.

Thereafter, every evening in the terrace, who would gladly have married her, and thus removed her from her constant state of peril; but on this point I regret to say that Mary Heatherbee was culpably "soit." She had given her heart away once, for good and all, she said, and she could never bring herself to do it again. And so, without one, it would not be fair to say any man. And so, in her blind perversity, she struggled on.

With the stoppage of the lodger's rent came the alarming discovery that the elderly lady was nothing more or less than a fraud, and that the kind and, and, beyond the payment of her monthly rent, it had never been her intention to contribute further to the support of the period allowed by legal procedure for claims of her class, and she was left to go elsewhere and find her own way.

The cruelty of the blow had no damaging effect upon Mary Heatherbee's condescending nature that she fell ill and took to her bed for a whole week. When she had recovered sufficiently to again crawl into the City for work, the dangerous illness of her child, following immediately on her own convalescence, was a serious handicap to her of any kind; and it became evident to the most casual observer of the events that were taking place at Ivy Cottage that the proverbial last penny had now been all spent.

At this critical juncture Dolle Rudge made her appearance upon the scene, and, having refused to leave the house until she had secured a mistress safely through her trouble, and in this resolve she was firmly seconded by her husband, who, forgetting in his righteous indignation what was due to the sex, threatened the elderly lady with forcible ejection unless she paid up the arrears within that day.

"Blow the law, and you, too!" shouted the enraged carpenter and joiner in an awful voice, as he

tired and independent one went up into her room and slammed the door in her face. "It's the likes of you that the law was made for, and you know it—your respectable old thief!"

When the child died, the world and all that she had held precious in it died with it, and Mary Heatherbee sank down helpless under the blow. Again she took to her bed, and almost immediately became oblivious to everything about her, in the condition of coma that mercifully superseded and prevailed until the day preceding her death.

On the morning of that day—the last she would ever see in Underholt-terrace—she awoke from her trance-like state, and, recognising Dolle by the bedside, motioned her, with a very troubled expression on her face, to stoop, in order that she might impart some last message to the ear of her faithful friend.

What the words were Mr. Rudge was then unable to divine, though subsequent events brought them before him in all their painful meaning. But, from the reassuring manner of his wife in replying to her request, and the look of intense relief that came into the dying woman's eyes, it was evident to him that the last trouble on her mind, whatever it had been removed, and, so, with her hand clasped tightly in Dolle's, and a whispered farewell on her lips, the old joyous light passed suddenly over her features, and, with its gradual waning her brave spirit departed.

Hardly had the sad event taken place, than a loud knock came to the front door, and Mr. Rudge on opening it was astonished to see a constable push his way into the passage, accompanied by no less a personage than the senior member of the firm of Pressingford and Sons—Mr. Henry Pressingford himself.

Before they could be prevented, they had reached the door of the bedroom, where he confronted by Dolle Rudge, her figure drawn up to its full height, and her eyes fairly blazing with indignation.

"Stand back!" she hissed, with one hand on the constable's breast and the other extended in the direction of the bed. "How dare you come in here?"

"Are you Mary Heatherbee?" inquired the constable, unfolding a paper.

"Not she!" sneered the master tailor with affected bravado. "Mary Heatherbee is inside. I can see her on the bed."

"Then come in, in God's name," said Dolle, in a solemn resolute voice, "and remove your hats in the presence of the dead!"

"Ay, dead! and beyond the power of your blue paper, and that mean scoundrel there, whose sweating principles brought her to it!" And, snatching the form of warrant from the horrified officer, she threw it down and stamped it under foot.

"And you, sir!" she resumed, as she threw a look of unmitigated contempt upon the master tailor, who, fairly awake to the undignified position in which he found himself, was literally shrinking into himself with downright shame. "You couldn't forgo the pleasure of seeing that poor hunted lamb haled off to prison and punished for doing what any woman and another might have done in the same position!"

"She pawned my goods," stammered the wretched Mr. Pressingford, doing all he could to avoid the eye of the fiery little woman. "She pawned my goods."

"To save the life of her child," retorted the carpenter's wife, "and small blame to her for it. Ay! look at her. Nay, don't turn away—for you will never see her again or her like either—though the day will surely come when one soft word of forgiveness from those cold lips would then be worth its weight in gold to you, who you know her case, and could with a fair wage have made her life worth the living. Look at those poor fingers, worn to the bone that you might wear that costly suit and sport that chain and diamond. Mark those eyes, that were once so bright, and work-book from the table and opened it—'and learn the miserable story that your columns shall tell.' Week ending January 7th, 4s. 7d.; January 14th, 3s. 2d.; January 21st, 5s. (the week the child was ill, and she sat up working day and night for it, to pay for the medicine and strengthening food); and here—look!—are the tear marks, half blotting the figures out. God help her! What chance had she—English woman though she was—burdened with rates, and crippled with such wages, in the struggle with those who, herding together in one room, contributed nothing, and could afford to eat less. Go! you have the door before you—and for the sake of others like her, let not the lesson be without its good results!"

And as they passed reverently out, closed the door softly behind them, the anger in her bosom went out with them, and with a studied cry of "Mary!" she knelt down by the side of her husband at the bed and prayed.

"ADDRESSED COLLARS."

"Want an addressed collar, sir?" was on Wednesday the inquiry of a young-looking individual, who, clad in a handsome frock coat, and armed with a handful of brass-mounted straps, "Why 'addressed'?" was the retort courteous. "Well, you see, sir, the new law comes in force to-morrow about the dog-muzzling, and (in a hoarse whisper) 'I've bought all the old collars with addresses on 'em that I can find, so that if you're dog goosed or fogged, you'll be quite safe, sir. And a happy new year to you!"

In this a result of the last order for the muzzling of collars.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Though every one will be taken to the accuracy of replies, the editor cannot assume responsibility for accidental errors. Questions sent by post will be answered as far as possible by the next issue. If a question is sent by post, it should be accompanied by a stamped address envelope or wrapper, to be returned to the editor, if desired. If a question is sent by post, it should be accompanied by a stamped address envelope or wrapper, to be returned to the editor, if desired. If a question is sent by post, it should be accompanied by a stamped address envelope or wrapper, to be returned to the editor, if desired.

LEGAL.

JAMES DETA.—He could do so, and she could not claim against the personally. In fact, the only way she could be paid in full, is by the court. We strongly recommend you to adopt that course.

MEASURES.—Clearly, you were entitled to half a day's pay. As well might you claim payment for the time occupied on the return journey.

TRUCK.—1. No. 2. No. 3. No. 4. No. 5. No. 6. No. 7. No. 8. No. 9. No. 10. No. 11. No. 12. No. 13. No. 14. No. 15. No. 16. No. 17. No. 18. No. 19. No. 20. No. 21. No. 22. No. 23. No. 24. No. 25. No. 26. No. 27. No. 28. No. 29. No. 30. No. 31. No. 32. No. 33. No. 34. No. 35. No. 36. No. 37. No. 38. No. 39. No. 40. No. 41. No. 42. No. 43. No. 44. No. 45. No. 46. No. 47. No. 48. No. 49. No. 50. No. 51. No. 52. No. 53. No. 54. No. 55. No. 56. No. 57. No. 58. No. 59. No. 60. No. 61. No. 62. No. 63. No. 64. No. 65. No. 66. No. 67. No. 68. No. 69. No. 70. No. 71. No. 72. No. 73. No. 74. No. 75. No. 76. No. 77. No. 78. No. 79. No. 80. No. 81. No. 82. No. 83. No. 84. No. 85. No. 86. No. 87. No. 88. No. 89. No. 90. No. 91. No. 92. No. 93. No. 94. No. 95. No. 96. No. 97. No. 98. No. 99. No. 100. No. 101. No. 102. No. 103. No. 104. No. 105. No. 106. No. 107. No. 108. No. 109. No. 110. No. 111. No. 112. No. 113. No. 114. No. 115. No. 116. No. 117. No. 118. No. 119. No. 120. No. 121. No. 122. 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HOLIDAY AMUSEMENTS.

DRURY LANE.

In his ascendancy as the great Panjandrum of pantomime, Mr. Sheriff Harris stands through this present Yuletide festival not only pre-eminent, but absolutely sole master of the rovels over his own peculiar domain of the western metropolis. Pleasure eaters of high enterprise and ability struggled year after year at the adjacent Covent Garden to obtain equality of place with the doughty manager of Drury Lane, and failed. Last Christmas saw the crowning competition, rendered the more exciting to holiday players as occurring between the rival Brothers Harris, one in his long-established home of pantomime, and the other at the even vaster area of the Haymarket Opera House; and it is noteworthy that the quality of the latest Christmas entertainment, if it does not surpass, certainly equals, the splendid spectacles



MESSRS. CAMPBELL AND NICHOLLS.

of previous seasons. A great change has come over the spirit of the familiar scene owing to the passing away of its veteran author, Mr. E. L. Blanchard, who, for over a quarter of a century, in successive years, furnished the "opening annual" for the Drury entertainment. For the new one, given primarily on Boxing Night before the customary crowded audience, Mr. Harris has called in as collaborator with himself Mr. William Yardley, well remembered by sportsmen in years past as the champion hard hitter of the cricket field. The dual writers, taking as their subject the familiar, though still unacknowledged, fairy tale of "Beauty and the Beast," have used the theme as a dramatic thread connecting a series of gorgeous tableaux, between which are judiciously interpolated scenes purely humorous, sufficient by contrast to prevent the eye from becoming wearied as in previous pantomimes by too many resplendent and dazzling effects of colour. This return to the old style of pantomime, in which the story of the sublimated to the fun of the story or its adjuncts, was evidently welcomed by the myriad visitors all round. The scene, in good old orthodox fashion, opens gloomily down in the realms of Old Bogie, who, through his skeleton myrmidons, imparts to the audience his sinister designs upon the youthful and virtuous King George. No sooner is the plot hatched in this inferno—low in every respect but its temperature—than it is put in force by the master demon's appearance as an uninvited guest at a ball at the young and lively King George's Court, where, in the scene on the scene, the beautiful



LADY DENIO.

implics, in trade. Just as the happy air is reciprocating her royal sister's love, Bogie casts his baneful spell over the young king, changes him in aspect to a beast; and, seizing his transformed prisoner, bears him away to the nether regions. There, however, the evil genius and his victim are confronted by the good fairy Beauty, who, releasing the sovereign from the demon's thrall, confides to him that the spell of bestial features may be broken, but not until a human being, moved by the sweetness of his nature to forgive the ugliness of his aspect, shall be willing to become his wife. Beauty's cynical father, while on his travels by the "underground" line, is made a prisoner by Bogie, from which duration vile the old gentleman is, however, released on giving his promise to send down his daughter Beauty in his stead to marry the fiend. This compact is duly fulfilled; but Beauty, always despising the loss of her royal lover, unconsciously meets him under his deformed condition in the fairy rose garden of the royal palace, where, ignorant of the evil imposed upon him, she repudiates the addresses of the Beast (Mr. D'Aubain). The spell is dissolved, and the happiness of the lovers is finally secured by a comical accident. The two very plain and ancient sisters of Beauty, each willing to get a husband on any terms, hearing that one is to be had down "below," accompany their father in order to forestall their sister, and on their way, meeting Beauty, and naturally from his appearance mistaking him for Bogie, forthwith pop the question. The condition of release and restoration to his former handsome self is thereby, however, unduly delayed, as Beauty, filled for the much afflicted young King George, who, restored by the fairy Rosebud to his former handsome personality, flies to the embrace of his Queen-elect.

MR. D'AUBAIN.

Such magnificence directed by artistic taste is lavished upon the three chief spectacular scenes of the pantomime.

with their brilliant ballets, as to make the decision as to which is fairest no less difficult than the choice of Paris with the Graces. One feature of Mr. Harris's pantomime—and the most sympathetic—to which the bounteous caterer has heretofore treated his Christmas multitude of children play at going to bed, or to dinner, or to school; but the absence of the little ones, save as regards the few who help as tiny "sups" to dress the scene, in which their elders prominently figure, was felt as a want, for which probably the blights of the London County Council are responsible. This may be the reason why in innocent revenge, these Killjoys among Mr. Harris's official coadjutors are so pungently satirized in the topical duet sung by Messrs. H. Nicholls and H. Campbell in their ludicrous roles of the two old sisters. Allusions in this topical comment to current events and persons were also made to the triumph of Mr. Gill over Sir Charles Russell in the Marks trial and to the hero of the fire-escape; both references evoked popular applause and laughter, especially that regarding Mr. Parnell. Messrs. Nicholls and Campbell were amusing as the two old maids, but in a way stereotyped to be very exhilarating. Far away the most enjoyable fun of the pantomime was due to the comical personality of Mr. Dan Leno as Beauty's parent. As regards the heroine herself, as enacted by Miss Belle Hilton, for her performance, though nothing but praise, to be just, must be qualified. This latest acquisition from the music halls speaks better than she looks, and dances better than she looks. A lively young King George was seen in Miss Vesta Tilley; and a grim head going in Mr. George Leach as the Bogie. The brothers Griffiths were much to the fore, though not excessively, for pit and gallery, in their droil assumptions of the two donkeys, against the droilery of which there is nothing to be said but its iterated sameness. A fresh element of humour was seen in the familiar presentation of a toy soldier of the familiar modern type by Mr. Fred Walton. The Leopold troupe, as living skeletons, tumbled well. Indefinite praise is due to the management for the chromatic harmony and variety of the dresses, and also for the scenery. No very vehement plaudits were evoked on Boxing night by the various pageants, simply because Mr. Harris had forestalled their marvels by his previous spectacular achievements. None the less the audience stayed to a man up to the harlequinade, and most of them through it to the end, a practical proof that Drury Lane has secured yet another great Christmas success.

STANDARD.

The personages in Messrs. Byam and Melville's pantomime, "The Forty Thieves," are divided into four categories, viz., respectable mortals, disreputable mortals, the rank and file, and the spirits of the pantomime. These comprise a most formidable list of artists and supernumeraries, who work well together to give due effect to the witty things and smart lines the authors have entrusted to their care. The pantomime is arranged for a very pretty and most effective opening scene, in which tit-bits from the realms of pantomime are served up for the delectation of the rival fairies and their attendants. The advantages possessed by such stories as Bo-Peep, Blue Beard, Dick Whittington, Sinbad the Sailor, and others are fully demonstrated by their representation; but eventually the choice falls upon the "Forty Thieves." The scene then changes to the home of Ali Baba, where a scheme is hatched for the capture of the bandit, the carrying out of which extends over some twelve succeeding scenes, all of which are satisfactory from a scenic point of view. There is a capital scene representing Bishopsgate-street, Bagdad, and another remarkably fine "set" representation of the domains of the Willow Pattern Plate. To celebrate the destruction of the robbers, a glimpse is given of the grand transformation scene, entitled "Night and Morning," which is received with unquestionable signs of approval. Miss Alice Leamar acted with such piquancy and grace as Morgiana that she immediately won the good-will of the audience; who also warmly applauded Miss Emily Lydale, a dashing Ganem. Ali Baba and his wife were excellent exponents in Messrs. L. Townrow and C. Kenny, and the envious brother, Cassim, is made to represent an Asiatic Sloper by Mr. H. Torrance. The other parts are all well filled, their exponents generally possessing good vocal abilities. Every attention has been paid to the comic and the serious, to which must be added the fun vouchsafed in the harlequinade. In this appear Messrs. H. Torrance (clown), B. Baker (pantomime), J. Ewins (harlequin), and Miss L. Perry (columbine).

SURREY.

Under the title of "The Sleeping Beauty with the Golden Hair," or, Valentine and Orson and the Big Black Bear," Mr. George Conquest has produced a pantomime which will leave no room for doubt as to his excellent judgment and tact in staging the wants of South Londoners. In the first scene, Malina, the evil fairy, pronounces doom upon Princess Eglantine, prophesying that she shall wound her finger ere her eighteenth birthday, and, declares he will not marry her lover, Valentine. Protection is offered, however, to the lovers by a good fairy, but she is unable to prevent the sun repelling importunities of a spinning-wheel into the palace, and the prophecy comes true as to the sleep. The good fairy comes to put all the others to sleep, and then, hey presto! a hundred years. We are then treated to a magnificent stage picture, which might appropriately be termed a "mountain landscape," the action taking place on the tops of the mountains, and representing a grand procession of jewels, in which the members bear aloft large gas brackets which each form a letter, and, being placed in their proper order, denote the name of the jewel then being represented, giving a pretty effect to the scene. Needless to say, everything comes right in the end, and the lovers are happily united. An excellent cast has been got together, the chief member of which is, of course, Mr. George Conquest, who, as the bear, has been made to his extremely funny

representation of Dame Hattaras. Good work is done by Mr. E. S. Vincent as Hugo, and also by the following:—Mr. Martell (Shaky Sham), Mr. Leeson (King Pepin), Mr. Walton (Orson), and the rest of the gentlemen gave very creditable accounts of themselves. Of the ladies, Miss Isabel Lindon, as Valentine, and Miss Laura Dyon as Eglantine, make an excellent pair of lovers and sing charmingly. Miss Jenny Lee makes the most of Malina; Miss Amy Farrell renders good assistance vocally as Fairy Sunshine; the other ladies rendering valuable aid in their various characters. The scenery is of an attractive and brilliant description, and the various stage pictures were arranged in a manner that spoke volumes for the stage management. The music is pretty and tuneful, and we must not forget to add that the transformation scene is a triumph of scenic splendour. The harlequinade is full of fun and bristling with topical allusions.

BRITANNIA.

With the new year the Britannia celebrated the jubilee of its existence, having been opened for the first time as a place of amusement on or about Easter Monday in the year 1841. Since that time it has at all times been a scene of the most flourishing theatrical institutions in the metropolis.



MISS AMY LYSTER.

It was fitting, then, that a pantomime of more than ordinary pretensions should mark the advent of so auspicious an occasion, and this has been provided by Mr. J. Addison, the author of several previous successful annuals at Mrs. Lane's theatre. His work this year bears the title of "The Spider and the Fly," or, King Jokess of Gofore Castle. A very able company of players has been retained for its interpretation, and, taking into account the spirited music, graceful dancing, elaborate scenery, and other magnificent effects introduced, we have no hesitation in saying that this is one of the prettiest productions ever put upon Mrs. Lane's stage. The argument of the spider, Mr. G. Lyster, to take him in the book of words—which, by the way, also contains excellent portraits of Mrs. Lane, the author, and the principal characters—is briefly indicated below. The first scene opens and discovers Scorpion (Mr. F. Leigh) beseeching his master, Tarantula, the demon spider, Mr. G. 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HOLIDAY AMUSEMENTS.

(Continued from page 6.)

LYRIC OPERA HOUSE, HAMMER.

It was Mr. Cordingley's original intention to produce his pantomime on Christmas Eve, but, owing to the backward state of the scenery, he wisely determined to postpone opening until Boxing Day. The pantomime, "Little Bo-Peep and Little Boy Blue," was then given, with complete success, save and except such defects as are always apparent at an initial performance, and both the afternoon and evening audiences left the house with the satisfaction of knowing that Mr. Cordingley's first pantomime was fully worthy of the handsome little theatre in which it is played. Though the representatives of several popular nursery fables at times get rather mixed, the author of the book, Mr. Charles Daly, must be credited with having composed a bright and telling fable. In the opening scene young Master Hammermirth (Miss Alice Lawrence) is seen retiring to rest, impatient as to the contents of his stocking on the morrow, which is Christmas Day. Santa Claus (Mr. Williams), going his rounds, is inclined to take a special interest in this youth, and decides to present him with a pantomime, in which he shall assume the part of Boy Blue. His companions are sufficient to last over six more brilliant scenes, many of which are most picturesque in their construction. The ballets, groupings, dances, &c., introduced into these elaborate sets are well contrived and charmingly carried out. The transformation scene, into which the rival factions retire to acknowledge the triumph of "Bo-Peep," is a most magnificent spectacle, entitled "Fairies Land." Then follows a spirited baroque, which fully maintains the reputation of the Almonte troupe. Mr. J. G. Johnson, as the old woman who lived in the shoe, is a most amusing person; Miss A. Lerio acts quaintly and dances gracefully as Tom the piper's son; Bo-Peep is charmingly personated by Miss K. Neville; and there are many other amusing characters admirably portrayed by Miss Cordingley, C. Steyne, J. Almonte, C. Almonte, G. G. Almonte, Misses E. Aldred, D. Leslie, D. Hayes, and others.

STRATFORD.

A very large audience assembled at this theatre on Boxing Day to witness the production of the pantomime, "Aladdin," written by Mr. C. S. R. The author has done his share of the work well, and the mirth and music forthcoming during the progress of the piece is likely to prove attractive to Mr. Fredericks' patrons for many weeks to come. Great credit is due to Mr. Bennett for the manner in which the pantomime is placed upon the stage, of which we shall endeavour to write more fully in our next issue.

LOUIS TUSAUD'S EXHIBITION.
This exhibition should prove a success, seeing that it is situated in a much-frequented thoroughfare. The premises are not extensive, but they are judiciously laid out. The lower portions are devoted to the illustration of historical and present day subjects, while the gallery part of the building is set apart for the display of numerous pictures. The portrait models of many well-known celebrities are artistically exhibited in excellent devils situations in connection with their careers or occupations. The juveniles and young persons who visit this exhibition will be charmed with the manner in which Mr. L. Tusaud has illustrated their favourite stories. He has struck on a new idea, and happily carried it out, in that he has for the most side of human nature will find in the annexes sufficient examples to satisfy their curiosity. There is a capital orchestra well conducted, which discourses tuneful numbers during the continuance of the exhibition.

MOORE AND BURGESS MINSTRELS.
The clever and popular entertainers, whose names are so familiarly associated with St. James's Hall, have drawn up a Christmas programme of exceptional attractiveness and merit. It is bright, full of hearty and innocent fun, and characterised by all those vocal and instrumental charms that have made these favourite minstrels known throughout the land. Both performers on the 26th at the spacious hall were crowded with delighted and enthusiastic audiences. Many of the new features are equally original. There is presented, for instance, a series of tableaux vivants, entitled "The Hall of Statues," in which the whole of the dancers and pantomimists of the company take part. Admirably arranged, this performance evoked the warmest applause, and the position of the latter effects being excellently done. A screamingly rollicking called "Love and Repentance" put every one in the liveliest humour, the fun being kept up fast and furious to the end. Mr. Eugene Stratton and his juvenile choir sang in their inimitable manner; and the new comic interlude, entitled "The Village Blacksmith," was both new and amusing. Moore makes himself conspicuously diverting, his pleasant smile and pranks keeping the audience in a roar. In the first part of the programme Mr. Moore sang a capital new comic song, "The Golden Jubilee," and Mr. Eugene Stratton gave his old favourite, "The Whistling Coon." Among the best of the sentimental ballads were "The Little Pink Ribbon," by Mr. Herbert Douglas; "The Waters could speak as the flowers," by Mr. Walter; "Love is the last of the day," by Mr. Ralph Hunt; "Waiting for Love," by Mr. P. Gualois; "Mother's Dear Old Song," by Mr. T. Campbell; and "Baby so Fair," by Mr. Clement Stewart. Among the other entertainers were Mr. Eddie Quinn in a clever musical mangle, Mr. Harry Leonard as the Arabian dancing girl, Mr. W. Lacey, cornet soloist, and Mr. Pete Wright, a gentleman with very considerable humour.

THE CAMBRIDGE.

Habituals of this charming resort will be pleased to learn that Mr. William Riley, recently benefited in health by his recent tour, is returning to England by easy stages, and may soon be expected to be once more in their midst. During his absence the interests of the public who visit the Cambridge has not suffered, for, under the direction of Mr. E. V. Page, the courteous acting-manager, one of the best programmes it is possible to conceive was produced for the delectation of the holiday-makers who elected to visit the hall. The programme has suffered very little change since Boxing Day, and some idea of its entertaining and comic nature may be guessed when it is mentioned that amongst its chief contributors are Mr. Charles Coburn, with "Hush! the Broker's Man," "Extra Special," &c.; Mr. G. W. Hunter, with his quaint comedy, "Mr. Imro Fox, the clever and mystifying conjurer; and Miss Beattie Hallwood, who, whether it be taking of an old showman or exhibiting her comely powers in other directions, is highly diversified. When the Cambridge is very popular here, Mr. Jolly John Nash is a handy person to have in one's programme at this season of joviality, for whenever he laughs his audience will be found laughing too. Miss Marie Collier sings and dances in her wonted spirited manner; the Sisters de Castro engage in some general duets and graceful dances, and Miss Cavendish and Miss M. Dittin. Many other entertaining characters are also personated by Messrs. P. Rafferty, P. Palman, and the Bony Boys, together with acrobatic

CENSURING A MEDICAL MAN.

A DISTRESSING CASE.

Dr. G. Danford Thomas held an inquest at Holborn Town Hall, on the bodies of Gertrude Hughes, aged 28, the wife of Dr. Christopher H. Hughes, of 9, Duncan Buildings, Gray's Inn-road, and her newly-born female child. According to Arthur Mayne, a clerk, the deceased, who was his half-sister, married Dr. Hughes, a young surgeon of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, and five years ago he was in practice at Hucksall Road, Nottinghamshire. Then he came to London, and had done little or nothing since, living upon the earnings of the deceased, who was a clerk in the office of the National Vigilance Association, and upon a small income which she derived from house property she owned in the Isle of Man. She complained to witnesses of her husband's treatment, of his idling his time away, spending his money in drink, and refusing to hire a charwoman to clean his flat at Duncan's Buildings, although she was too ill to clean the place herself. Further, he had said he did not care whether she lived or died; and that, if she died on Christmas Day, which was his birthday, it would make the event "all the more auspicious." On Friday morning, the 28th ult., at half-past eleven, he fetched the witness to see the deceased, telling him she had been confined, and he found that her child had been born five or six hours; that no nurse or woman of any description had been called in, and there were no preparations made. The infant was alive and was wrapped in a flannel petticoat. It lived a few hours. The deceased was evidently in a neglected state, and in great agony. At her request the witness went to the house of the Rev. H. P. Hughes, the Wesleyan minister, in Tavistock-street, Gordon-square, and asked Mrs. Hughes to send to the deceased one of the French Academy, the name given by Dr. O'Daylly, a nurse, and a trained nurse from the mission subsequently came. Then and afterwards Mrs. Hughes received every attention, but she died at midnight. Witness was with his sister the previous night, and several times asked Dr. Hughes to have a doctor and doctor in readiness to attend upon his wife, but he said "he would attend upon his wife, and would have no marauders about." The deceased had had two children previously, both of whom died when infants. She had informed witness that a fortnight ago for the greater part of two nights her husband would not allow her to lie in bed, and that

she had to sleep on the hearthstone. The coroner, the doctor says the child was stillborn, and that its lungs never expanded. The witness: Oh no; it lived and cried. Dr. T. J. Connolly, practising in conjunction with Dr. Ryan at 180, Clerkenwell-road, said he was called by Dr. Hughes to see the latter's wife on Wednesday, the 24th ult., and found her to be suffering from pneumonia of the left lung, with pleurisy, and no respiratory action. He found her in a more prostrate condition. On the next day, between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, he was summoned, and discovered that she had been prematurely confined. The baby was dead—believed from its appearance to be a boy, and was buried in the morning. Dr. Ryan, the witness made a post mortem examination of the mother and child, and arrived at the conclusion that death was due to pneumonia and pleurisy, and that it was accelerated by the premature birth of her child. Dr. Hughes was "rather of intemperate habits." Dr. Ryan gave corroborative testimony. After evidence by the nursing sister from the West London Mission, the husband was called. He said his wife must have been confined about ten minutes to seven. He remembered the time, because the milkman came then. He did what was necessary, and as soon as he could safely leave his wife he went for his brother-in-law. Meanwhile, he never called in any woman. He could not get any one so early in the morning. The child was born alive. It gave his wife hot milk and water, and that was all. Replying to Mr. Cotes, the secretary of the National Vigilance Society, by whom Mrs. Hughes was employed, the husband said he did try at seven in the morning to arouse some of the female inmates of Duncan's Buildings with a view of getting their aid for his wife, but failed. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence. The coroner, addressing Dr. Hughes, said there was no doubt that he was a man of intemperate habits, and with such men their better feelings become blunted. In this case his drinking habits had led him to a great extent to neglect his wife, for whose care and comfort in a delicate situation he had made no provision whatever. He was himself a medical man, and knew what was required in the circumstances. Fortunately for him a doctor and nurse did ultimately arrive, but there were no thanks due to him for this. His only salvation was to become a total abstainer—otherwise he would sink from bad to worse. As a medical man he (Dr. Hughes) must be aware of the evils of intemperance, and he had allowed his habit ruined body and soul, and rendered men callous to the welfare of those who should be dearest, as they were nearest to them. The deceased lady stuck to him (Dr. Hughes), would not leave him, maintained him out of her own earnings, and screened his faults, and yet in the hour of her need he left her to the care of strangers, and he had hoped that this case would be a lesson to him and lead him to mend his ways.

WAS IT A THEFT?

At the Clerkenwell Police Court, 8th Tucker, 25, who said he was an American, and gave no name, was charged with stealing from the 26th at the spacious hall were crowded with delighted and enthusiastic audiences. Many of the new features are equally original. There is presented, for instance, a series of tableaux vivants, entitled "The Hall of Statues," in which the whole of the dancers and pantomimists of the company take part. Admirably arranged, this performance evoked the warmest applause, and the position of the latter effects being excellently done. A screamingly rollicking called "Love and Repentance" put every one in the liveliest humour, the fun being kept up fast and furious to the end. Mr. Eugene Stratton and his juvenile choir sang in their inimitable manner; and the new comic interlude, entitled "The Village Blacksmith," was both new and amusing. Moore makes himself conspicuously diverting, his pleasant smile and pranks keeping the audience in a roar. In the first part of the programme Mr. Moore sang a capital new comic song, "The Golden Jubilee," and Mr. Eugene Stratton gave his old favourite, "The Whistling Coon." Among the best of the sentimental ballads were "The Little Pink Ribbon," by Mr. Herbert Douglas; "The Waters could speak as the flowers," by Mr. Walter; "Love is the last of the day," by Mr. Ralph Hunt; "Waiting for Love," by Mr. P. Gualois; "Mother's Dear Old Song," by Mr. T. Campbell; and "Baby so Fair," by Mr. Clement Stewart. Among the other entertainers were Mr. Eddie Quinn in a clever musical mangle, Mr. Harry Leonard as the Arabian dancing girl, Mr. W. Lacey, cornet soloist, and Mr. Pete Wright, a gentleman with very considerable humour.

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THE RAILWAY FATALITY AT LEEDS STATION.

An inquest was held at Leeds on the body of Annie Louise Whyte, aged 27, who was killed by an engine at the Great Northern Railway Station, Leeds, on Christmas Eve. It will be remembered that a collision took place at Copley Hill, outside Holbeck Station, a Lancashire and Yorkshire express train from Liverpool running into a light engine belonging to the Great Northern Railway, the latter locomotive running on uncontrolled into Leeds Central Station, where it derailed, and the engine and killed. The platform was backed up, and the engine left Leeds by special train and alighted just above Holbeck Station, near the Wortley East signal box, where the circumstances attending the collision were fully explained by Mr. F. B. Cockshott, who also conducted the jury into the signal box, from which position a clear view of the line could be obtained. The principle of the case was that of the signalman, who spoke as to the latest of the traffic, and the prevalence of a fog at the time of the mishap. After twenty minutes' consideration, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and, taking into consideration the state of the weather and the traffic at the time of the occurrence, exonerated the signalman from blame.

EYRAUD AND HIS WIFE.

Whatever may be the general opinion as to the deserts of Eyraud, his wife, says a Paris correspondent, shows a great deal of womanly feeling towards the doomed wretch, who had long been unfaithful to her. Madame Eyraud continues to deplore bitterly the terrible fate which is in store for her husband, and maintains that, far from being the truculent and bloodthirsty person supposed, he was the most tender-hearted, the mildest-mannered, and the most disinterested of men until he was led astray in an evil moment by the dire pressure of impenitency and the sinister influence of Gabrielle Bonaparte. Everybody, in fact, who came in contact with the condemned murderer before he fell so far from the path of duty regarded him as a person who was liberal to a fault, and generous in his behaviour to his friends and subordinates. His wife hopes great things from the petition for a reprieve signed by the eight jurymen, especially as no such appeals for clemency were made in the case of Franzini and Prado. Both Madame Eyraud and her daughter are in quite true domestic circumstances. It is quite true Madame Eyraud has received several advantageous offers of marriage, which she has refused, but the rumour that some miscreant had sent her as a New Year's present a miniature reproduction of what is called in the Boulevard booths "the Gonfi's trunk," is an atrociously absurd emanation from the brain of some scribbler of the Rue Montmartre who was hard pressed for copy and coin. On the contrary, much sympathy has been expressed all round for Eyraud's family, and the mother and daughter have received numerous letters of condolence from persons who were completely unknown to them, and are ready to afford them practical assistance as well as sympathy.

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THE HORRIBLE MURDER OF AN ESSEX FARMER.

The inquest on the remains of Joseph Leatherdale, farmer, of Salcot, Essex, whose body was discovered in a cupboard in his farmhouse, and whose nephew is in custody on suspicion of having caused his death, was resumed at the school-room, Salcot, before Mr. J. Harrison, coroner. The prisoner, Arthur Leatherdale, appears to have formed a kind of attachment to Police-sergeant Cressy, who had charge of him at the inquest, and who a year ago investigated the circumstances under which he was supposed to have set fire to his uncle's dwelling. He begged that that officer might continue to have charge of him during the inquest, and on his journey from the goal to Salcot he remarked that he did not like strange policemen. — Keriak Sortwell, daughter of the deceased, stated that her father had complained to her that the house was deserted, and a terrible fall. On December 1st the deceased told her that he had cashed a cheque for £200 from Seabrook, of Chelmsford. The prisoner usually endorsed his cheques, and had done so in this instance. After leaving the prisoner on December 23rd witness felt sure that something was wrong, and acquainted the police. On December 12th the deceased told her that the house was deserted, and a terrible fall. On December 1st the deceased told her that he had cashed a cheque for £200 from Seabrook, of Chelmsford. The prisoner usually endorsed his cheques, and had done so in this instance. After leaving the prisoner on December 23rd witness felt sure that something was wrong, and acquainted the police. On December 12th the deceased told her that the house was deserted, and a terrible fall. On December 1st the deceased told her that he had cashed a cheque for £200 from Seabrook, of Chelmsford. The prisoner usually endorsed his cheques, and had done so in this instance. After leaving the prisoner on December 23rd witness felt sure that something was wrong, and acquainted the police. 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"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

A short answer turneth away trouble.

Berlin believes that England intends to make Zanzibar a free port.

Viscount Portman and Sir Edward Guinness have each given £100 to the Irish Distressed Ladies' Fund.

H.M.S. Grappler has left Portsmouth for Ireland with a cargo of potatoes for the distressed peasantry.

The will of a New Haven merchant, recently proved, consisted of pages of paper so pasted as to make a sheet twenty feet long.

For stealing a fagot of wood, worth 2d., Thomas Boyce and James Stevens have been fined 1s. each by the Guildford magistrates.

A Canadian egg trade is rapidly being established with England. The eggs are said to realize as much as 11s. 6d. per ten dozen.

In Moravia a mail train was wrecked through the splitting of a wheel in consequence of the cold.

Golf has now annexed the capital of Belgium. There has for two or three years been a club at Antwerp.

For every "operative" representation in London Messrs. Harrison have to pay Madame Patti £500 a night.

While foreigners in France number 3 per cent. of the population, they are 11 per cent. at the convict class.

The memorial to the Czar in favour of the Russian Jews, voted at the Guildhall meeting of the 10th ult., has been transmitted to St. Petersburg by the Lord Mayor.

The cold in intense in Vienna. During the fortnight there were 31 degrees of frost—a temperature which is extraordinary even for Austria.

Dr. McRedmond, Bishop of Killaloe, telegraphs that there is not a word of truth in the statement that his house has been fired at.

Napoleon III. Daniel, a noted train robber, recently convicted at Texarkana, Texas, and sentenced to life imprisonment, has escaped from goal.

The chimney-sweep apprentices of Berlin have been entertained, as usual, to a Christmas dinner by the members of the British Embassy.

An American doctor in Washington recently set the broken leg of a horse. The animal has recovered, and is able to work as well as before the injury.

The Chinese Army at the present moment has a force of 1,200,000 men. Over 100,000 soldiers, armed with European weapons, are stationed on the frontier.

Although the costs of the Bishop of Lincoln in the late famous ritual case came to nearly £5,000, they were not, it is understood, a third of those of his antagonists.

The passengers on the Guion line steamer Wyoming, on her last trip to New York, saw two water-puffs during the trip within one hour. The sports did no damage.

The Columbus celebration of 1893 will be held by Spain at Huelva, in Andalusia, the "discovery" having sailed from the estuary now known as Huelva Harbour.

The sale of the late Mr. August Belmont's horse, New York, has brought in a total of £24,729. Potomac was knocked down for £2,000, and Baron Leopold de Rothschild bought Magnolia for £1,020.

Mr. Worsley Reid's "Life, Letters, and Friendships of Lord Houghton" has sold so rapidly during the holidays that the second edition is almost exhausted, and a third is already looking on the horizon.

St. John Lubbock believes that in no country in the world are workmen more anxious to improve their position than in England. He, however, deprecates strikes as an unsatisfactory means of achieving that end.

It is curious to see Russia now proposing to spend from £50,000,000 to £100,000,000 on a Siberian railway, while there is hardly a well-paved street in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Warsaw, and outside the town of St. Petersburg.

A seaman named Grandfield fell from the gallery into the pit of the Theatre Royal, at Canterbury the other night. He sustained a fracture of the skull and concussion of the brain.

M. Eiffel, of tower celebrity, having achieved high honours as an engineer, is now ambitious of becoming a legislator, and has issued an address to the senatorial electors of the department of the Côte d'Or, soliciting the privilege to represent them in the Upper Chamber of the French Legislature.

The Swiss Federal Council, according to a correspondent at Berne, has decided not to renew the treaty with France relative to the duties and literary copyright owing to the action of French composers, who have prohibited the production of their works by amateur societies without payment.

Professor Huxley will perhaps not be surprised to learn that his trenchant handling of "General" Booth's scheme, while it may have deterred some intending subscribers, has stimulated others. Miss Edna Lyall, the novelist, sends £100 in aid of the "generals' scheme" as a protest against Professor Huxley's criticisms.

A collector, named Rowland Hill, who lives at Shepherd's Bush, was charged at the West London Police Court with stealing a bag containing the dinner of a conductor on one of the road cars. The conductor said he saw the prisoner with the bag a few days after it had been stolen, and gave him into custody. Hill was sent to goal for three weeks.

On Saturday at East Grinstead, a publican named Ridger, who was also coachman to Col. Addison, accidentally shot himself in the head and died twenty minutes later. On hearing the news an old lady named Bradley dropped down dead on the spot where her husband suddenly dropped dead two years ago.

It is good news to learn not merely that Lord Tennyson is in vigorous health, but also that, in spite of his 81 years, he has not laid aside his pen, and therefore may still be regarded as a creative force in contemporary English literature. It is rumoured that the poet laureate has a new sheet of verse almost ready, and that another slim green-backed volume may be anticipated.

A new street is about to be constructed in Rome, which will involve excavations that are expected to be of great interest. The street will pass over what is known to be the site of the Basilica Emilia, which was burned in the same time as the Temple of Vesta, in the reign of Augustus, but afterwards rebuilt by Domitian. It is the Basilica Giulia, already excavated on the opposite side of the Forum.

Lord Salisbury has forwarded a cheque for £250 towards paying off the debt of £500 on the new working men's club in connection with the Trinity College, Oxford, Mission at Stratford, E. The Duchess of Albany has consented to open the new building on the afternoon of January 15th, and special effort is being made that this may be done free of debt.

Lord Salisbury will address a great Unionist meeting at Cambridge on the 21st inst., the day before Parliament re-assembles. The gathering will take place in the Corn Exchange, the largest hall in the town, which will be specially fitted up for the occasion. Mr. R. U. Fenrose Fitzgerald, M.P. for Cambridge, will preside, and Mr. T. W. Russell,

M.P., will be amongst those who will address the meeting after the Prime Minister.

Five petrified trees were found a few days ago south of Weatherford, Tennessee.

Mrs. O'Shea sings like a lark, but the larks are all over now.

The latest advice for avoiding income-tax—have no income.

"Split P's" is what the Americans are now calling the Irish members.

New York has more wealthy widows than any other city in the world.

Mrs. Polly Dickey, of Stockton, U.S.A., has celebrated her 100th birthday.

He who speaks before he thinks frequently has to do a lot of thinking afterwards.

Raw onions are wanted to break up an engagement of no matter how long standing.

Nearly 40,000,000 gallons of wine will have been made in the United States this year.

Every father thinks there's no baby like his boy, and all the other fathers are glad of it.

Mr. Chamberlain will deliver a political address in East Birmingham on January 9th.

The Pope has spent on the poor this Christmas 12,000 francs.

It should be the aim of every man to leave enough money with which to set up his wife's second husband in business.

An author states that a man's body has 37,000,000 pores, out of which will pour daily two pounds of perspiration. Poor man!

The Indians' "ghost" dance has one feature which recommends it to American society. The costumes are worn dekollet.

It is said that a newly-opened coffee-house in Berlin has a portrait of Dr. Koch as its sign.

The "Jolly Household" will take out fruit stains. It will also take out husbands at night.

It is mournful for the ladies to reflect that, after all, the best fitting corsets are worn by the seals themselves.

Ballet girls are, strangely enough, seldom heard talking about dress. With them it is a very scanty subject.

In the American House of Representatives the pages vary greatly in height. The small ones are called pages.

It seems strange that Dr. Keoh should send some of his lymph to Ireland. It won't cure brood or black eyes.

Jay Gould thinks America is the "gem of the earth." He could almost afford to wear it in his shirt front.

A semi-official denial is now given to the rumour that the German Emperor meant to visit Paris next year.

Infuenza has re-appeared in the French capital, and numerous cases of infectious pneumonia are also reported.

The Earl of Bradford and Lady Frederick Cavendish have become patrons of the Church of England Bazaar, Funeral, and Mourning Reform Association.

The "Twilight Club" of New York has been asking, "Is Philanthropy a Failure?" They should submit the question to "General" Booth.

"So you called at Mr. Jones's about that little bill," said the merchant to the clerk. "Yes, sir," and what did you find out?"

"Mr. Jones."

There is a peculiar social system existing in spiderland. Female spiders eat up their sweethearts, which must save a lot of legal trouble.

An Indiana wife murderer has been sentenced to prison for a term of ninety-nine years. This is a trifle worse than a life sentence.

Professor Tyndall's health has much improved. He is happily recovering from the severe attack of insomnia from which he has been suffering for a long period.

The date of the Unionist demonstration at Maidstone, at which Mr. Goschen, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will be the principal speaker, has been altered to Tuesday, January 20th.

Viscount de Saint Pierre, senator for the department of Calvados, was run over by a cab while crossing the Rue Scribe in Paris, and died of his injuries. He was in his 81st year.

Four railway saloons with a luggage car have arrived in Rome from Nuremberg, specially constructed for the use of the Italian royal family. It is considered the most luxurious and beautiful royal train that has ever been seen in Europe.

The steamer Werendam, from Amsterdam, reports having encountered severe weather during her passage across the Atlantic. Several stowaway passengers were more or less injured, some being broken limbs, while others sustained dislocations.

Mrs. Matilda Abere, a widow, aged 65, living at 12, Battersea Park-road, in getting out of a train at Sloane-square Station fell between a carriage and the platform. An arm and a leg were almost severed from the body, and the woman was taken to St. George's Hospital in a precarious condition.

The Dublin Stock Exchange was discontinued on Monday by the announcement of the failure of Mr. Frank Du Bedat, president of the exchange, and head of the firm of Messrs. Du Bedat and Sons, of 2, Foster-place. The liabilities are estimated at a quarter of a million sterling.

Near Trieste the Maria Andriana, a barque coming from Jamaica, was wrecked from her anchor and driven to sea. After toasting about for two days the barque was noticed by a Lloyd steamer, and the captain with five sailors were saved. Next day the steamer returned to save the rest, but the barque had sunk and with it perished four sailors.

Mr. T. S. Cooper, R.A., has received the following letter from the Prince of Wales's secretary:—"Dear Sir, I am desired by the Prince of Wales to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and to convey to you the expression of his best thanks for the copy of 'My Life,' which you have been so good as to send him. His royal highness has much pleasure in accepting the volumes, and he trusts that he shall read them with considerable interest."

The National Indian Congress, meeting at Calcutta, resolved to send 100 delegates to a congress in England, in order to prove to the British public the loyalty of the Hindoos, and their fitness to be treated by the English as fellow-citizens. A lady doctor, Mrs. Ganguli, moved a vote of thanks to the chairman. This was the first occasion of a lady speaking at any congress. After resolving to hold the next meeting at Madras or Nagpur in 1892, the congress adjourned.

Percy Ough, a traveller, was charged at the North London Police Court with travelling on the North Metropolitan Tramway and refusing to pay a penny excess fare. He had been given into custody by Henry Richardson, an inspector employed by the tramway company, and detained during the greater part of Saturday night. The magistrate told Richardson that he had no right to give the accused into custody, and at once discharged him.

Mr. Chamberlain, presiding in Birmingham at a meeting of a deaf and dumb institution, alluded to the probability of the Government Bill which was withdrawn last year becoming law this session. This Bill threw the responsibility of providing education for the deaf and dumb upon the school boards; and he urged that, after their elementary education had been provided for, they ought to aim at attaining the benefits of higher education. The advantages and results of which

he had seen at the Columbia Institute at Washington.

Vice-admiral Aube, formerly French Minister of Marine, has died at Toulon.

The Naval Reserve comprise nearly 20,000 able and ordinary seamen.

Fifteen deaths in the metropolis last week resulted from burns or scalds.

Three deaths in London last week were primarily attributed to influenza.

There were 1,771 births and 2,331 deaths in London last week.

The First-class Army Reserve is in a highly prosperous state, having increased during the past year from 53,000 to 57,000.

The Second-class Reserve has almost become extinct, having gone down within the year from 2,600 to 1,000.

Sixty-four deaths in the metropolis this week were attributed to accident or negligence.

The metropolitan asylum hospitals contained 168 cases of enteric fever, and one of typhus, on Saturday last.

Again no death from small-pox was last week registered in any of the 250 great towns of England and Wales.

The Registrar-general tells us that thirteen infants under a year old died from suffocation in London last week.

The large bridge-building works of Messrs. Zimmermann Brothers, at Potsdam, have been destroyed by fire.

The Grocers' Company have made a grant of £100 in aid of the funds of the London Society for the Extension of University Teaching.

There is a Composers' Club in New York, formed exclusively for musical composers. They meet and play their rejected efforts to one another.

Pity the poverty-stricken young man who weds a "butterfly of fashion." He will soon be unable to provide " grub" for his butterfly.

There is much in common between the Irish party and the Salvation Army. They have both had splits, and they are both asking for money.

Lord de Grey well maintains his position amongst the crack shots of the country. No fewer than 6,000 partridges have fallen to his gun this year.

A recently-married lady says that her husband would soon be a wealthy man if he would only work as hard now as when he was making love to her.

The other afternoon a young man, 30 years of age, threw himself from the top of the Arc de Triomphe, Paris. The rash act was committed in consequence of losses on the turf.

Stag-horn is again competing severely with beer in the Sheffield trade, particularly in the silver-smiths' branch of it. The best description of stag-horn for their purposes comes from Madras, Bombay, and Ceylon.

The age of a widow, who died last week at 35, Markham-square, Chelsea, was stated to be 101 years; the age of eighteen other Londoners who died during the week were stated to be over 90 years.

The anti-Farrellists expect that a considerable number of Mr. Farrell's followers will fall away from him. They even anticipate that some twelve or fifteen will ultimately join them.

Signor Crispien contemplates introducing a bill into the Italian Chamber having for its object the establishment of a bank which would enjoy a monopoly of the privilege of issuing bank notes.

There were 84 deaths from measles in London last week, 14 from scarlet fever, 31 from diphtheria, 43 from whooping-cough, 19 from enteric fever, and 13 from diarrhoea and dysentery.

In Paris, at a general meeting of the shareholders of the Comptoir d'Escompte, a resolution was adopted authorizing the arrangements for a settlement of the account with the Bank of France.

Considerable interruption to the suburban traffic on the Great Eastern Railway was caused the other evening by one of the carriages of a train leaving the rails near Bishopsgate. No one was injured.

The report that the Emperor William is intended to visit London next summer appears to have some foundation, though no official announcement on the subject has yet been made.

The roof of a large brewery collapsed at New York while the place was in full work. The results were most serious. Two men were killed on the spot, and twelve more were seriously injured, of whom several are in a very precarious condition.

Sir Peter Edlin, Q.C., chairman of the London County Sessions, is seriously indisposed, and some time may elapse before he will be able to resume his duties. He sat all through the long vacation, and thirteen months have passed since he last had leave of absence.

The cause of the exceptionally high death-rate last week is found in the increase of deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs. In London these deaths reached the unusual total of 806, or nearly 300 more than the average for the week.

A steady diminution is taking place in the number of naval breeches enrolled. It was hoped to keep 2,000 of this class on the register, but in spite of the offer of a £5 bounty, 1,600 has never been reached, and the total now stands at 550.

The telegraph steamer Monarch has arrived at Calais with the cable which is to be laid across the English Channel for the London and Paris telegraphic services. The course taken by the cable will be from St. Margaret's Bay to Sandgate, and thence to West Calais.

The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce will petition in favour of the railway across England between Lincoln and Liverpool. Commercially the scheme is considered the most important affecting Lincoln ever brought forward.

A tramp, named Henry Lutz, aged 52, has been arrested at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for the murder of a family in Germany thirty years ago. The police base their charges against him on a death-bed confession made by an accessory in Germany. Lutz will be extradited.

At Jarrow Police Court, a boy named Samuel Humphreys, aged 14 years, was remanded, charged with the manslaughter of a little boy named William Clark, whose death he is alleged to have caused by striking him in the face with a stone.

At Cannon-street Hotel the annual meeting of the Commercial Travellers' Schools was held. Mr. D. R. Harver presiding. The report stated that the subscriptions showed a considerable diminution, but the board hoped that the increased advantages now given to subscribers' children would lead to an addition to the funds.

A verdict of death from peritonitis was returned at an inquest held at Littlemore Asylum, near Oxford, respecting the death of James Shouler, aged 75. One of the attendants said that on Christmas Day the deceased threw some spoons at him, and picked up another, but the witness struggled with Shouler and they both fell to the floor.

At a recent meeting of the Dulwich Divisional Council of the Primrose League, held at the Crystal Palace Hotel, Mr. R. Gifford, Salmond (ruling councillor of the Crystal Palace Habitation) was unanimously elected president, and Mr. A. A. Methuen (hon. sec.

of the Anerley Habitation) hon. sec. of the new council.

Eight of the juryman who found Eyraud guilty have signed a petition for a commutation of the death sentence passed upon him.

Mr. Ruxton, who has been station-master at the East Croydon Station for the past twenty-five years, fell dead at Wednesday while conversing with two friends.

A vat containing 26,000 gallons of vinegar burst the other morning at a vinegar brewery in Birmingham. The force was so great that a lofty wall was demolished and the cellars of the adjacent houses were flooded.

Some fishermen off Newfoundland the other day took from their fish-trap a seal which had an iron lobster pot ring firmly fixed round its neck. The ring was imbedded in the flesh, making it quite difficult to remove.

A town in Ohio has a married man's club, the object of which is to induce married men to spend their evenings at home. A druggist is president, a doctor is secretary, and the members meet every night in the drug store of the district.

Inspector McCormack, the headmaster and inspector of the Birmingham City Police, has just died. His death is said to be primarily due to the fumes inhaled while secreted in the illicit whisky distillery he discovered in the city in 1889.

William Tucker, a gunner in the Royal Artillery, has been sentenced at Portsmouth to twenty-one days' hard labour for an assault upon a police-constable, whom he had kicked in a brutal manner because the officer had ejected him from a public-house.

At Bursley, John Bonall and George Bowman, gardeners, were committed for trial on a charge of stealing a sheep belonging to the Rev. J. Twentymay. It is alleged that they went to a field, killed the sheep, and carried it away.

From the seventy-fifth annual report of the Liverpool Savings Bank, which has just been issued, it appears that the position at the close of the year is improved by an increase of £27,719 18s. 2d. in the amount due to depositors and 2,533 in the number of open accounts.

During the year the number of railway accidents who subscribed to the Railway Benevolent Institution was 96,173, and relief was granted to 3,732; 154 men were killed by accident, and sums voted to those dependent upon them; 3,176 were injured by accident, and 424 died from illness.

The fatal effects of the severe cold is shown by the fact that last week the deaths in Halifax, Manchester, and Preston exceeded the very high rate of 400 per thousand. In Bolton, Bristol, Liverpool, and South Shields, the rate was more than 300 per thousand.

St. Benet's Church, Paul's Wharf, which was for a time in peril from Tuesday's fire, is memorable as the burial-place of Inigo Jones. His monument was destroyed in the great fire which also destroyed his work at St. Paul's. The church was rebuilt after that fire by Wren.

"We have had no snow this season; you have had a lot. We have in the garden roses and strawberries full size (but not ripe). I never saw the like before." Thus wrote a correspondent a few days ago living near the town of Wick concerning the present season.

A nine-year-old lad at Jubulpore, in India, is under arrest for having buried alive his younger brother, aged 3. He admits the offence, and states that he and his brother were orphans. He had to beg for a living, and as he could not take the younger about with him he thought much trouble would be saved by burying him.

A man named Staley, who was suffering from typhoid fever, committed suicide at Wednesday night under wholly mysterious circumstances. When his wife went to give him some milk he pushed her downstairs, ran down himself, and, having obtained a knife, rushed upstairs again and cut his throat. Medical aid was at once obtained, but he died within two hours.

At the Liverpool City Police Court, a number of women were each fined £5, or one month's imprisonment, for keeping houses of ill-fame in Blundell-street and Audley-street. Mr. Baines intimated that if defendants appeared again their fines would be doubled, and mentioned that he had power to inflict a penalty of £40 for a second offence.

Fleischer, the Munich artist, has been commissioned to paint a historical picture, in the form of a panorama, representing all the most celebrated persons who have lived during the last two centuries under the Hohenzollern rule. The picture will be exhibited in Berlin, where a building will be erected for its reception.

For the Ripon Diocesan Clergy Aid Society seven subscriptions of £500 each have been received, the bishop and the Earl of Zetland being among the subscribers. The object is to provide retiring pensions, make grants to supplement incomes, and assist the clergy in the purchase of annuities or life assurance, for which £50,000 is required.

The Earl of Meath states, in reference to his appeal for £25,000 to lay out as a public garden eleven acres in the East-end of London, known as Victoria Park Cemetery, that £250 has been promised by one friend, £100 by another, on condition that the whole amount required shall be raised within six months. Altogether about £700 has been obtained, leaving £22,300 still to be found.

Thomas Millett, a sick-bay attendant at Melville Naval Hospital, Chatham, has committed suicide by taking a strong dose of strychnine. Deceased had previously been detected by the act of smuggling spirits into the hospital, and on a charge as regarded as a serious breach of the regulations. He was to have appeared before the captain of the Steam Reserve, but preferred to take his life.

At the annual meeting of the Plymouth Working Men's Constitutional Union it was resolved to send the following telegram to Lord Salisbury:—"The members of the Plymouth Working Men's Constitutional Union wish the Marquis of Salisbury a very happy new year, and hope that he will be long spared to guide the destinies of this great empire."

According to the details of the scheme of the Borough of Hastings Association for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicancy, initiated by Mr. Wilson Noble, M.P., and Mr. Councillor Stubbs, during the majority of the latter, all the charitable agencies at work in the district will be brought into co-operation, making one and the same agency for the relief of the deserving and the repression of the indigent.

During morning service at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Edinburgh, on Sunday last, a fire broke out in an adjoining chapel, which was destroyed. The congregation rushed to the doors, which were promptly thrown open; but those in the gallery had their means of exit cut off by the fire, and they escaped by jumping a distance of 18ft. Both the church and the Theatre Royal were threatened by the outbreak, but neither was seriously damaged.

The winter term of the Dikbeck Literary and Scientific Institution, Dream's Buildings, Chancery-lane, will open on Monday. Over 200 classes meet weekly in commercial and technical subjects, mathematics, natural, applied, and mental science, languages, history, literature, art, music, law, &c. Special classes are arranged for University, Civil Service, and other examinations. On

Wednesday evenings lectures will be delivered in the large theatre of the institution.

There are 113 heaped teaspoonful of tea in a pound.

The Queen was created Empress of India fourteen years ago last Thursday.

L. E. Blochman, of Cat Canyon, California, has a perfume farm containing over 3,000 lavender plants.

On July 1st, 1890, one in every forty of the population was in receipt of indoor or outdoor relief.

The actual number of paupers on the rolls of the 448 unions and parishes throughout the country on July 1st was 739,000.

Lord Justice Fry will distribute the prizes to the students of the City of London College on Friday, January 16th, at 3 p.m. The Lord Mayor will preside on the occasion.

The German Emperor has addressed a telegram of condolence to the widow of Dr. Schillmann, for whose character and achievements his Majesty expresses great admiration.

The sketch of the "Deadwood Coach" at Olympia is a very laughable performance. Owing to the success of the last costume carnival another will be given on January 22nd, when over sixty prizes will be given away at a cost of £300.

As a New Year's gift to the retired Bishop of Winchester the townsmen of Farnham despatched to the House of Bishops, South-eastern, a handsome set of silver writing-table appliances. Dr. Harold Browne is reported to be in good health.

The Board of Trade have intimated to the promoters of the Channel Tunnel that if the bill, which has again been recently deposited by them in the Private Bill Office, is passed, it will be the duty of the Government—as on previous occasions—to oppose it in Parliament.

The British captain who was arrested at Portland, Oregon, on a charge of forging a will at Lancaster, England, under the name of George Booth, has been discharged from custody, the court holding that the British authorities had failed to produce evidence as to the identity of the accused.

It says something for the rapid transaction of business at the Thames Police Court that, inasmuch as an average of 185 individuals per diem addressed the magistrate in connection with the various cases, the time allotted to each speaker must have been under two minutes.

At Windsor on Wednesday night a large and handsome Thames house-boat, lying at the raft of Mr. R. Allen, boat-builder, partially destroyed by fire. The loss was considerable. The conflagration attracted hundreds of spectators to the side of the frozen river, against which the unfortunate craft was moored.

Mr. Stanhope, in a letter referring to Sir C. Dilke's recent paper on "Imperial Defence," says he thinks the writer had hardly taken into sufficient account the fact that the British Army was a voluntary service organization, and therefore of necessity was a far more costly one than those of continental countries where service was compulsory.

